GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1993
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
MGNREGS in Drought Hit Areas
Rao (Avnthi) Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 31 per cent of the Gram panchayats in drought affected districts had not shown any expenditure under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) according to official data till 31st March, 2016, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether Swaraj Abhiyan leader had written to the Government specifying the immediate measures needs to be taken to alleviate the sufferings of the rural population due to drought conditions, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Ministry thereto and measures being taken to tackle the drought situation in rural areas across the country, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): No, Madam. As per the Programme Management Information System (MIS), only 5 per cent of the Gram Panchayats in drought affected districts had not shown any expenditure under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) till 31st March, 2016.

(b)&(c): Writ Petition No.857/2015- Swaraj Abhiyan Vs. Union of India & others is still subjudice in the Supreme Court of India wherein the issue pertaining to MGNREGA in the drought affected states is also being discussed. No direction from the Hon'ble Court has been received as of now.

Measures taken by the Ministry to tackle the drought situation in rural areas across the country are given as under:

â€¢ In the areas declared drought, under MGNREGA extra 50 days of guaranteed wage employment in financial year, over and above 100 days of guaranteed wage employment have been allowed.

â€¢ In current financial year a national target of constructing 5 lakh Farm Ponds under MGNREGA was kept, against this States/ UTs in their annual labour budget and shelf of works for the year 2016-17 has kept the target of 8, 82, 325 Farm Ponds to augment water for irrigation. Maharashtra has kept target of constructing 1000 Farm Ponds in year 2016-17;

In addition to Farm Ponds, following types of works given below are being taken up under MGNREGA to tackle drought situation.

(i) Water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment and improve groundwater like underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams, check dams with special focus on recharging ground water including drinking water sources;

(ii) Watershed management works such as contour trenches, terracing, contour bunds, boulder checks, gabion structures and spring shed development resulting in a comprehensive treatment of a watershed;

(iii) Micro and minor irrigation works and creation, renovation and maintenance of irrigation canals and drains;

(iv) Renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of irrigation tanks and other water bodies;

(v) Afforestation, tree plantation and horticulture in common and forest lands, road margins, canal bunds, tank foreshores and coastal belts duly providing right to usufruct to the households covered in Paragraph 5

(vi) Improving productivity of lands of households specified in Paragraph 5 through land development and by providing suitable infrastructure for irrigation including dug wells, and other water harvesting structures;

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